

# THE FORT MILL TIMES.

Established 1891.

FORT MILL, S. C., THURSDAY DECEMBER 8, 1921.

\$1.50 Per Year.

## INTEREST IN ELECTION.

### Primary Tuesday Expected to Bring Out Big Vote.

The Democratic primary to be held in Fort Mill Tuesday, December 13, to nominate candidates for town offices to be filled at the general election on January 10 promises to bring out a decidedly larger vote than has been polled at any municipal election yet held in the town. Up to last night 375 citizens, including many women, had placed their names on the Democratic club rolls. It is thought that by Saturday night the number will have gone beyond 450. In no previous election in Fort Mill for town officers have more than 200 votes been cast.

There is much speculation on the outcome of the election, especially that for mayor. Thus far there are two candidates for the office, A. C. Lytle and B. C. Ferguson. Both are business men of the town and both have friends who have been at work for them since their announcements were made last week. Interest in the race is expected to increase with the approach of the election. Taking the talk heard on the streets as a barometer, the race will be close.

In the contest for alderman-at-large, with two to be nominated, there are six candidates and it is not unlikely that a second primary will be necessary to determine the winners. In two of the four wards there are opposing candidates for ward alderman. Two members of the public works commission are to be nominated, but thus far The Times has heard of only one candidate for the office.

The polls will open for the primary at 8 o'clock a. m. and close at 4 o'clock p. m. As soon as the work of counting the ballots is finished, the executive committee will meet and declare the result of the election.

The club rolls will close Saturday evening and no one will be allowed to vote in the primary whose name was not placed thereon before the hour of closing. Women may enroll under the same rules governing the enrollment of men, whether they have county registration certificates or not.

Attention was called to the fear expressed by a number of women that if they enrolled for the primary they would subject themselves to the prospect of jury duty. Such an idea is erroneous. The laws of the State exempt women from jury service.

### Wants Clean Streets.

"Fort Mill is one of the best towns of 2,000 people in South Carolina," yesterday said a citizen of the place who has visited practically every town of importance in the State, "but at that there is not lacking room for improvement here," he continued. "For instance, it gives the visitor a bad impression of the place to see trash and refuse matter of various kinds lying around in the streets. It would cost no great amount of money to remedy this condition and I hope the council that will take charge of the town's affairs early in the new year will take steps to this end. "One thing I regret the Fort Mill City Democratic club overlooked in arranging for the primary next Tuesday was to set a date for a public meeting of those who are seeking office so that we could be informed of their ideas of what the town government should be. As the matter now stands, we are asked to go to the polls and vote for this or that man without knowing what he proposes to do to make the town more progressive, or whether he intends to sit down and do nothing as members of the town government in other places sometimes do."

### Play in Rock Hill.

Arrangements have been made for a game of football in Rock Hill Friday afternoon between the Chester and Gaffney high school elevens to decide the championship of the upper section of South Carolina. The game will be played at the fair grounds and will start at 2 o'clock.

## LOWER TAX PROPOSAL.

### Special Committee to Make Recommendation to Legislature.

If the special committee on economy created at the 1921 session of the General Assembly can have its way there will be a reduction in the State tax levy of something like one-third, according to a statement of the committee made public a day or two ago.

Three methods are to be proposed in the report of the committee to effect the proposed reduction. The first will be to postpone the construction of all public building operations for a year. Better organization and improved operating procedure in the State departments is the second plan the committee will propose and the third is to assess for taxation under some form all property now escaping wholly or partially its fair share of the tax burden.

Senator Niels Christensen is chairman of the special committee and in an interesting letter to The Times tells of the plans of the committee to bring relief to the taxpayers. Senator Christensen does not anticipate that the legislation the committee will propose will pass without serious opposition, however, as he is informed that parties who are not disinterested already are at work finding fault with what the committee has done and hopes to do.

## BITERS BITTEN.

"Let me tell you a little story of a card game that resulted disastrously for a bunch of professional gamblers in New Orleans a few years ago," yesterday said a Fort Mill man. "At the time I was staying for a few weeks at a hotel in that city. Among the acquaintances I made at the hotel was a man named George Scott, who was one of the thousands of Americans who rushed to the Klondike when gold was discovered in that country in the late '90s. Scott was an interesting story teller and frequently entertained his friends at the hotel with reminiscences of his experiences in search of the precious metal. Once he said he discovered very little gold, but that what he did not learn about poker playing while he was in the frozen north had been torn out of the book.

"A poker game, promoted by all round crooks, was then being run in one of the hotel rooms. One evening the principal shark behind the game approached Scott and me and asked us if we would not like to take a hand. I answered in the negative, but Scott said he might drop in for a short time later in the evening. Then I remarked to him that the game was crooked and if he took part in it he might expect to be robbed. "They are welcome to every cent they can steal from me," he said.

"The next evening I asked Scott if he had taken part in the game and he replied that he had. "I started to playing straight, of course," said he, "but in a short time discovered that that was not the sort of game I was up against. It took me a little less than 30 minutes to shear them of \$500, all the money they had. Then I invited them to go out and grow some more wool."

### Gold Hill Happenings.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wilson spent several days last week with Mr. Wilson's sister, Mrs. Arthur Gardner, near Charlotte, N. C.

Mrs. F. H. Wilson and her little daughter spent last week with relatives near Charlotte, N. C.

Mrs. John Patterson visited her father at Barberville last week.

Banks Patterson is visiting at Barberville.

Carl Johnson of Charlotte, N. C., and Sutton Epps of Flint Hill were guests of F. H. Wilson last week.

Clyde Cunnup of Charleston spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Cunnup.

Joe Nivens of Pineville, N. C., spent the last week-end at his home in this community.

"Boagus."

## NEWS OF YORK COUNTY.

### Current Items of Interest From the Yorkville Enquirer.

Information as of December 1 was to the effect that the Rev. B. F. McLendon was desperately ill in the hospital at Tarboro, N. C. He was expected to spend this week at Spencer, but instead sent this message: "Desperately ill. Pray for me."

The county board of supervisors of registration issued quite a number of certificates at its regular monthly meeting Monday and made arrangements for the annual revision of the record for the use of the jury commissions in the presentation of next year's jury box.

Sheriff F. E. Quinn and Mrs. Quinn both have influenza and the doctor seemed to be very much afraid Monday morning that Mrs. Quinn had pneumonia. Sheriff Quinn has been sick for several days, but has been trying to hold out from going to bed as long as possible.

Fire of undetermined origin which was first discovered between the ceiling and roof of the building destroyed the Miller school building in Bethel township about 4:30 Monday afternoon. School had just been dismissed for the day a short time when the fire was discovered.

There has been some talk of asking Gipsy Smith to come to Yorkville in April, but as yet nothing definite has been decided upon. The proposition is that local individuals guarantee the initial expense, amounting to about \$2,700, and that in addition Mr. Smith will receive for his services voluntary contributions.

Mitchell Burris, negro about 45, killed Joe Gill, another negro of about the same age, at Burris' home on Hose Norton's place, about five miles west of Yorkville Saturday evening at 7 o'clock. Following the killing Burris ran away, but he was arrested next morning at 2:30 o'clock by Deputy Sheriff Quinn and Magistrate Black.

The merchants' association of Belmont, N. C., recently put on a rat killing contest among the young people, offering a prize of \$5 for the largest number of rat tails. The largest number of tails brought in by one contestant was 73, by Leonard Armstrong but in all 573 tails were offered. The United States government estimates the value of property destroyed by a single rat at \$1.87, and according to this estimate the contest has saved more than \$1,000 worth of property during the next 12 months.

Owners of dogs are just waking up to the real significance of the new dog tax law. Those who knew about the law at all seemed to think it would be all right to defer payment on into January if they saw proper. But now they are beginning to realize that while other taxes may be postponed into January on a 1 per cent penalty, the \$1.25 dog tax must be paid before December 31. Nearly 200 license tags have been taken out within the last week, more than 75 of them Monday. The total number of tax tags issued up to date is over 400.

### Legion Post Elects Officers.

At the annual meeting Monday night of Eli Bailes post, No. 43, American Legion, of Fort Mill post officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Commander, Brie D. Culp; vice commander, E. B. White; adjutant, W. B. Ardrey, Jr.; historian, F. M. Mack; sergeant, Oscar Hammonds; treasurer, W. B. Meacham, Jr. A chaplain for the post will be elected at a future meeting. The new officers are to be installed on the evening of December 12.

### Fence Wire Telephones.

Barbed wire fence telephones are being installed in two communities in Corson county, S. D., according to the county demonstration agent, who furnished the plans. The county, 87 miles long and sparsely settled, had little telephone service until the county agent thought of using the fence lines.

## TO COLLECT DOG TAX.

### Fort Mill Town Council Not to Be Governed by State Law.

So far as the town of Fort Mill is concerned, the recent act of the General Assembly providing that a dog tax of \$1.25 be collected in South Carolina in lieu of all other tax on dogs in this State, as was the intention, if not the explicit wording, of the act, will have no effect upon the collection of the municipal dog tax if the will of the town council obtains. The matter of collecting the local tax on dogs as heretofore was given brief consideration at a meeting Tuesday night of town council, at which the decision was reached that the ordinance of the town should be enforced since it had the effect of ridding the community of several ownerless dogs last year.

The town attorney is understood to have advised council some time ago that the act of the General Assembly did not repeal the local ordinance and the duty of council was to go ahead and collect the local tax just as if the State statute had never been enacted. Whether the opinion of the attorney was based upon doubt he may have entertained of the constitutionality of the act or that the verbiage of it was not sufficiently explicit to set aside the town ordinance, The Times was unable to learn.

In local curbstone legal circles however, neither construction of the act was necessary to warrant the town in withholding the collection of the tax, the opinion being expressed that the town had all the warrant it needed to enforce local ordinances in its ability to fine or imprison recalcitrant citizens, regardless of State statutes. The opinion also was expressed locally that no act of the General Assembly was binding upon the town council of Fort Mill until the supreme court passed upon the constitutionality of the act, and that town ordinances in conflict with State statutes should be enforced until the same court held that the town council was exceeding its authority in enforcing such ordinances.

Sam M. Wolfe, attorney general of South Carolina, does not agree that the town council of Fort Mill is within its rights in collecting a local dog tax, saying that the act of the General Assembly providing the \$1.25 dog tax shuts out the collection of all other dog tax in this State. In an official opinion rendered on December 5 at the request of The Times, Mr. Wolfe says:

"The 'dog tag' act has come in for more controversy than has any other piece of legislation in my lifetime. I know, and I have wished often that some one would take the trouble to have some court construe the act. I have officially consistently construed the act as imposing the 'tag' license of \$1.25 'exclusive' of all other taxes, municipal or otherwise; that is, 'shutting out' all other taxes—or, if you prefer, 'in lieu of all other taxes.' It may mean 'in addition to other taxes,' but in connection with the rest of the statute, I cannot see it that way."

### Wins University Monogram.

Robert Potts of Fort Mill, who is a student at Washington and Lee university, Lexington, Va., was awarded the university monogram at the football reception given during the Thanksgiving dances in Lexington. He was one of the university's mainstays in football this year. He still has another year at the university and is expected to be even better next year. At Clemson in 1919 he made the "All-Southern" football team.

### Many Men in National Guard.

With a total of 132,000 men, the National Guard units, reorganized by the federal government, have reached a strength almost equal to that of the regular army, according to an announcement of the war department. Vigorous efforts are being made all over the country to bring the National Guard up to its authorized strength of 222,877 men.

## WOULD HELP SOUTH.

### Ford's Plan to Sell Nitrates at Saving to Farmers.

Henry Ford intends to manufacture more nitrates than all the cotton growers of the South can use if he is allowed to lease from the government the power plant at Muscle Shoals, Ala. He will also standardize fertilizers and make their use more effective and cheaper. In addition to this he also promises to carry on experimental work for still further perfecting the manufacture of fertilizers.

Many farmers are behind Ford in his effort to lease the plant. Hardly a day passes but what there are received in Washington letters and telegrams from farmers' organizations asking the secretary of war find out their desires that the project be completed and the nitrate plant be put in operation.

The supply of nitrates is fast dwindling, according to a report of the American Farm Bureau federation. The price of Chilean nitrates, the chief source of supply for American farmers, is increasing as the supply is becoming more inadequate. By completion of the Muscle Shoals plant it is claimed that the price will be lowered, the supply replenished and the door of competition opened, thus reducing the price of other commodities.

The proposition of Fort to enter the fertilizer business, however, is being fought by packers, coal men, transportation interests and fertilizer concerns.

### Writes From Constantinople.

Robert B. Lee, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Lee of Fort Mill, who has been in the American navy for some time, has written to his parents from Constantinople, where he is stationed for the present as a fireman on a submarine. The letter was written November 12, after Mr. Lee had been in Constantinople only a few days. He was expecting to leave the next day for Galatz, Turkey, where he was to remain ten days and then return to Constantinople.

"We are expecting," said he, "to leave for the States about the first of the year. We have a lot of fun over here going to Turkish dances. I will send you some pictures of the 'Seven Wonders of the World' some time real soon. I was through the place November 7 and saw things there that were made in the years 1 and 2. All the Turkish rulers are buried there, and the ones who were rich have solid gold caskets, made by hand." Mr. Lee says his submarine is now burning oil instead of coal and that he likes the former fuel much better.

### Pleasant Valley News Notes.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Heath and their young son of Midland, N. C., and Mrs. Louis Markle and children of Detroit, Mich., are visiting at the home of Mrs. Heath's and Mrs. Markle's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Elms.

After spending some time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Elms, Mrs. C. H. Hudson and her children have returned to their home at North Wilkesboro, N. C.

Mrs. L. R. Therrell and her little daughter have returned from Greenville, where they visited Mrs. Therrell's parents.

Mrs. J. W. Elms, Jr., and her children have returned from Norfolk, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Dickson gave a party to the young people of the community last Friday evening. Progressive conversation, games and music were enjoyed until a late hour. Refreshments were served. Those present were: Misses Mary Graham, Sadie Wheeler, Lucy Tice, Verda Wolfe, Ida Lee Parler and Ruth Shuler, Willard Wilson, William Crook, Walter Patterson and C. E. Patterson. "Spinner."

B. F. Wingate, well known in Fort Mill as a Steel Creek farmer, died at his home Monday, following an illness of several weeks. Mr. Wingate was 40 years old and unmarried. The interment was at Pleasant Hill Presbyterian church Tuesday at noon.

## LAND OF THE BANANA.

### Republic of Central America Also Coffee Producing Country.

Coffee made for culture, bananas for world neighborliness and volcanoes fertilized the soil for the new Republic of Central America. Such generalizations leave many facts untold, but this one provides a dependable handle for essential factors in the development of the three states, Guatemala, Honduras and Salvador, which now make up the newest American republic, according to a bulletin from the National Geographic society.

"This new nation has an area approximately that of Colorado and a population greater than that of Massachusetts. Its mapped outline resembles nothing so much as a sleigh, with the runners on the Pacific ocean and British Honduras perched in the driver's seat. Its surface conformation may be compared to an A tent, with one side sloping much more gradually than the other, and this longer side sagging and almost touching ground toward its edge.

"One's geography gets twisted in thinking of Central America as being to the south of us, if it be remembered that an east and west line running through the new republic could touch Nicaragua and Mexico at the ends, and that going from the Atlantic to the Pacific means a trip south.

"The ridge pole of the Guatemala Andes lies much closer to the Pacific than to the Atlantic. Along this range volcanoes go sky-rocketing with disconcerting frequency. They wipe out cities, at times, as when Guatemala's capital was all but destroyed five years ago, and San Salvador has won the nickname of 'the swinging hammock.' Yet volcanoes are the friends of these states. They are the very gushers of elements which, entering into the soil, have made the vegetation luxuriant.

"The sagging side of our tent slopes gently toward the Atlantic. Toward its edge are the lowlands. Scattered tribes of primitive Indians and negroes from the West Indies once eked out an isolated existence here. Now the region is blanketed with banana fields. This crop has bound the Caribbean side of Guatemala and Honduras to the United States by those invisible but enduring ties, steamship lines.

"What sugar was to Cuba during the second decade of the 20th century, coffee was to Guatemala during the last decade of the 19th. The breakfast beverage of millions of Americans helped put up magnificent public buildings in Guatemala City and San Salvador and placed pianos, phonographs and other luxuries in many a Central American home. It likewise sent a suddenly increased number of Latin Americans to colleges and universities of the United States to return better equipped for leadership in those political and civic ideals which their countrymen already were trying to follow.

"The constitution of Honduras does not regard the ballot as a privilege, but makes voting compulsory upon the male citizen who can read and write. If married he must begin voting at 18; if unmarried at 21. The death penalty has been abolished.

"Salvador's coast is wholly on the Pacific side of the isthmus. Guatemala and Honduras turned their faces toward the Pacific until the advent of the banana crop on their northern plains. The simple fact has had far-reaching historical consequences."

### Free Government Seed.

United States Senator N. B. Dial has announced that he will be pleased to hear from any of his constituents in South Carolina who wish to receive any of the government's free seed for planting during the coming spring. The lists are now being made up in Washington and any person wishing to receive these seed should send their name to Senator Dial immediately and he will see that they receive their quota.